

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1200

By Todd

A RESOLUTION to congratulate University of Memphis men's basketball Head Coach John Calipari upon winning the 2007-2008 Naismith National Coach of the Year Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as legends in the annals of collegiate athletics in Tennessee and as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such distinguished Tennessean is University of Memphis men's basketball Head Coach John Calipari, who recently won the 2007-2008 Naismith National Coach of the Year Award, an honor befitting his many outstanding accomplishments; and

WHEREAS, this year's laurel marked the second time Coach Calipari has won the award, as he also earned top honors as the head coach of the University of Massachusetts basketball team in 1995-1996; he is just the second coach ever to win the prestigious award more than once; and

WHEREAS, the successful 2007-2008 season set many milestones for both Coach Calipari and the storied University of Memphis Tigers basketball program; and

WHEREAS, establishing a record of thirty-eight games against only one loss on the road to the National Collegiate Athletic Association National Championship game, Coach John Calipari and the Tigers posted the winningest single season in Division I history; their appearance in the final round was also momentous, as it was the first time the Tigers had competed for the national title since 1973; and

WHEREAS, Coach Calipari also directed the University of Memphis basketball team to its first No. 1 ranking since 1983, a ranking they maintained for a school record five weeks; the

team was ranked No. 1 or No. 2 for sixteen consecutive weeks, the longest streak in school history; and

WHEREAS, the Tigers proved indomitable in each of the first twenty-six matchups of the season, as they set a school and Conference USA record for the best season star ever; and

WHEREAS, leading Memphis to its third consecutive sweep of Conference USA regular season and tournament titles, Coach Calipari earned the Conference USA Coach of the Year Award for the second time in three seasons; and

WHEREAS, in sixteen seasons as a head coach, John Calipari has established an admirable career record of 412 wins against 136 losses; he is only the second coach in Division I history to win 400 or more games in his first sixteen seasons; and

WHEREAS, having won 219 games at the University of Memphis, he is just the second coach in school history to win more than 200 games; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Coach Calipari has epitomized the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud John Calipari for his unswerving commitment to excellence and his many accomplishments, on the hardwood which bring honor to the State of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that that we hereby congratulate John Calipari upon winning the 2007-2008 Naismith National Coach of the Year, honor and commend him upon his tremendous coaching career, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.